

Dear Neighbor,

The 2006 legislative session is the shortest in recent years. As a result, it is very important for the Legislature to prioritize our work. My colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus and I have decided to focus on passing initiatives to help build a stronger and more secure economic future for Connecticut's residents.

Our plan is called "Connecticut Jobs for the 21st Century" and it includes efforts that will expand opportunities for Connecticut citizens to secure and keep good jobs. I've included a few highlights of our plan in this mailer. I hope that you will read it and send me your comments, thoughts and concerns.

If you have opinions on this or other topics, please be sure to call or write my office.

Yours truly,

Mary Ann Handley 4th District, State Senate



State Senator

# Mary Ann Handley

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## State Senator Mary Ann Handley Connecticut Jobs for the 21st Century



#### **Broadening Prosperity for Connecticut Citizens**

With innovation and imagination, state government is taking bold steps to help residents achieve and succeed in the 21st Century. Our plan involves comprehensive initiatives, including offering incentives to companies that provide wellness programs, expanding access to wireless Internet service, providing an earned income tax credit to low-

income working families, encouraging investment in small and microbusinesses as well as promoting agricultural research and innovation.



#### **Retaining and Creating Jobs in Connecticut**

State government will be both a partner and a catalyst for high-tech employment opportunities by assisting students who decide to enter these promising careers. As a former Community College teacher, I understand the connection between receiving a good education and securing a good job. Our plan includes financial aid for students who are trained in growing

technology-based fields and who commit to working in Connecticut. Our plan also proposes initiatives that encourage a greater collaboration between business and state universities to keep our best-trained residents in state.



### Unlocking the Gridlock: A Transportation Policy for Connecticut

Now is the time to fully and forcefully attack the transportation problems that threaten the economic future of Connecticut with initiatives that reach all four corners of our state. Our plan places renewed emphasis on mass transit, including commuter lines from New Haven to Hartford and

Springfield, improved connections to Bradley International Airport, and the establishment of transportation hubs that integrate rail and bus options. Additionally, we will increase incentives to move freight by rail and better utilize deep-water ports.



#### **Working Toward Energy Independence**

State government will do all it can to encourage emerging technologies and the use of renewable energy. Our plan includes initiatives that create innovative loan programs to help businesses and local governments finance energy-efficient and renewable energy systems. We will also work to provide a "Green Building" tax credit to businesses for

energy-efficient facilities. We will promote cleaner transportation solutions by encouraging fuel cell buses and alternative-fuel vehicles.